

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Four Days of Work for the Week.—Comparison of Records.—Want the House Equalization Bill to Pass.—Tightening the Scales on Criminals.—Michigan Mining School.—More Appropriations.—Sundries.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LANSING, April 20. When the Senate was called to order last Monday morning it was found that less than a quorum of Senators were present, so an informal recess was taken until afternoon, when, as a result of the extended recess, the Judiciary Committee reported over forty bills in one batch. That was by far the greatest amount of bills reported by either committee at one time this session. As in Congress, so in the Senate, Senator Hubbell is a worker, and his committee turns off work rapidly and well. The House did a light forenoon's work with little more than a quorum, and then both houses adjourned, and most of the members, with their wives or lady friends, took a special train over the Michigan Central for Detroit, where they attended the grand reception given by Governor and Mrs. Alger at their fine new home—said to be one of the best if not the best in Detroit, where elegant residences are the rule. The four days since, up to Friday evening, have been busy ones, and a good amount of intelligent legislation has been accomplished.

COMPARING THEIR WORK.

It is always a source of satisfaction to compare one legislative body and the work done, with its predecessors. The claim of the present Legislature, of more work done to date than was accomplished by that of 1883, is hardly substantiated by the facts. Up to date but 109 House bills and resolutions have reached the Governor, and forty-seven Senate measures, a total of 156 bills, etc., which have come into the Executive office for approval. Mr. Oumun, the Governor's private secretary, figures out that over fifty House measures are lurking about the Senate and a proportionate number of Senate measures are halting in the House. The records kept in the Executive office show that Gov. Alger and Gov. Begole have up to date done about the same amount of bill signing, and the amount of bills that have reached the Governor are about the same. The records show that very few really important measures had reached either Governor at this time of the session.

LARGELY PETITIONED FOR.

While the Senate is receiving petitions from about 2,000 people of the State each day, for the passage of the joint resolution submitting proposed amendments to the Constitution, the House is beginning to be very largely importuned for the passage of the Sellers bill to equalize bounties, which we gave in full in our last as reported by the committee. More or less petitions have been received during the whole session, but now that the bill has been reported, the pressure is increased. The petitioners say: "We believe that in the amount of bounties heretofore paid by the State great injustice has been done to a large and deserving number of volunteers, whose claims upon a just and equitable equalization have thus far been ignored. Although long neglected, it is not too late to redress this wrong. The number of those to be benefited by the proposed bill is diminishing fast, and if the State is ever to remedy the injustice complained of, and enable the surviving soldier to enjoy the benefits to be derived, the time for action should be no longer delayed."

GOING FOR CRIMINALS.

An innocent-looking little bill passed the House on the 16th inst., and it is hardly probable that half of those who voted for it realized its true import, yet the criminals of Michigan will have serious occasion to know that it means a great deal to them in the future if it passes the Senate, as it will be very sure to do. It makes it obligatory on judges to sentence criminals convicted of a second offense to the full extent of the law—fifteen years, and amends the law so as to read as follows:

SEC. 1. That whenever any person having been convicted of any of the crimes of burglary, grand larceny, horse stealing, robbery, or forgery, shall thereafter be convicted of any one of such crimes, committed after such first conviction, the punishment shall be imprisonment in the penitentiary for the full term provided by law for such crime at the time of such last conviction; and whenever any such person having been so convicted the second time as above provided, shall be again convicted of any of said crimes, committed after said second conviction, the punishment shall be imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period not less than three years, nor more than ten years, and the court may, at its discretion, that such former conviction or convictions, and judgment or judgments, shall be set forth in apt words in the indictment; And provided further, that on any trial for any of said offenses a duly authenticated copy of the record of a former conviction and judgment of any court of record, for either of said crimes, against the party indicted, shall be evidence in the case, and such former conviction, and may be used in evidence against such party.

SEC. 2. All acts and parts of acts in any way contravening the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

MICHIGAN MINING SCHOOL.

An attempt heretofore made to conduct a mining school at the State University has expended considerable of the State's money—\$21,000—since the school was first established in 1875, and has proven such a failure, owing to the fact that there were no mines there, and consequently no opportunity for the students to prosecute their studies in a practical way, that it has been nearly or quite given up. The necessity for such a school has all along been so apparent to those who have been obliged to import all their skilled laborers from the old world that a bill "to establish and regulate a mining school in the upper peninsula," introduced by Senator Stephenson and engineered by both Senators Hubbell and Stephenson, passed the Senate on the 14th, and will go through the House no doubt. It provides that the Governor shall appoint six citizens of the upper peninsula, who shall be known as the "Board of Control of the Michigan Mining School," and hold their offices for two, four, and six years, two to be appointed each two years thereafter, who shall serve without compensation. The Board shall hold its first meeting at Houghton, July 15, 1885, and organize by electing a President, Secretary, and Treasurer from their number. They shall as soon as possible secure a suitable location, lease or erect buildings, procure furniture, apparatus, library, and the necessary implements for the successful operation of such a school, appoint a principal and a suitable number of teachers and assistants, make and establish any and all rules regarding the course of study, terms, hours, control, discipline, etc. The course of instruction shall embrace geology, mineralogy, chemistry, mining, and engineering, and such other branches of practical and theoretical knowledge as will, in the opinion of the Board, conduce to enabling the students to obtain a full knowledge of the science, art, and practice of mining, and the application of machinery thereto. The tuition shall be free in said institution to all bona fide residents of the State, but a reasonable charge for incidental expenses may be made, not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 per year, and the Board shall be obliged to furnish students with books, apparatus or other material. The bill appropriates \$25,000, \$15,000 of which shall be

raised in 1885, and \$10,000 in 1886. There isn't any doubt of the passage of the bill by the House, and it is expected that the school will be located at Houghton, the home of Senator Hubbell, and in the heart of the mining territory.

APPROPRIATION BILLS PASSED.

The Senate last week passed the bill to increase the one-twentieth mill-tax for the State University to one-tenth of a mill. This increases the amount from \$41,000 to \$82,000, and the act limits it from ever going beyond \$85,000 as the wealth of the State increases. The Senate also passed the general appropriation bill for the University, giving it \$107,500, of which \$90,000 shall be collected in 1885 and \$17,500 in 1886. The Senate also passed on the 14th the bill appropriating \$70,200 for the current expenses of the State Normal School for 1885 and 1886, and \$120,425 for current expenses, buildings, etc., for the institution for educating the deaf and dumb at Flint.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Senate proposes to push its appropriation bills ahead of every other class of legislation, which may possibly mean preparation for an early adjournment, but it isn't possible that final adjournment can be reached earlier than it was in 1883—June 9.

The bill to reduce the test on illuminating oil from 110 to 120 degrees, passed the Senate on the 16th, to the surprise of everybody, by a vote of yeas 19, nays 6.

The joint resolution to amend the Constitution as to abolish the Board of Wayne County Auditors passed the Senate on the 16th. This is the board whose doings have been so generally and so severely criticized by the Detroit papers during the past year or two.

When the bill to increase the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges to \$5,000 per year came up, an amendment was offered and discussed for half a day, to provide that no law should be declared unconstitutional except as so declared by at least three of the four Judges. At present the court is sometimes divided two to two.

OBSERVER.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Last Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Michigan State Board of Health was held at its office in Lansing, Mich., April 14, 1885.

The members present were John Avery, M. D., President; Arthur Hazlewood, M. D., C. V. Tyler, M. D., Prof. V. C. Vaughn, M. D., and Henry B. Baker, M. D., Secretary.

It being the annual meeting the President's address was the first order of business. The President said that he had prepared no formal address. He thanked the members for the many courtesies shown him during his administration. He had no change of policy to recommend to the Board; no marked change, he thought, is desirable. The work is well understood, and is a satisfactory condition. The Board must be governed somewhat by emergencies, as they arise. He could congratulate the board on what it had achieved. He thought it would be wise to continue holding sanitary conventions in different places in the State. He spoke of the probable advent of Asiatic cholera, and thought that it might be the board's duty to provide that no law should be declared unconstitutional except as so declared by at least three of the four Judges. At present the court is sometimes divided two to two.

The Secretary read a report of the work of the office during the past quarter. Of the 760 pages of copied letters sent out, 153 pages were modified circular letters to local health officers in regard to prompt action to restrict contagious disease. In connection with those about ten thousand copies of the documents on the restriction and prevention of certain contagious diseases and on the duties of health officers, have been sent to health officers for distribution to neighbors of families in which such contagious diseases have been reported. Since the last meeting of the board the outbreak of small-pox at South Boardman has been suppressed. During the past quarter there had been one case of small-pox at East Saginaw, two cases at Grand Rapids, confined to one house, the first of which was a commercial traveler who thinks he was exposed on the train between Boston and Grand Rapids. About the time he was exposed it is known that a man having small-pox passed through Michigan on the Michigan Central Railroad, from Ontario to Chicago, en route for Manitoba. At Battle Creek there have been four cases of small-pox, death from small-pox, the contagion of which is supposed to have come from a brakeman on the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railroad, who stopped with a family in Battle Creek while he was slightly sick, and who thinks he contracted the disease on the train near Chicago. Two members of this family, a Battle Creek visitor, died at Bellevue, in Eaton County, and small-pox broke out in the family in which they stopped. Five cases and one death have occurred there; but thus far the disease at Bellevue has been confined to the one family. All the members of the family were vaccinated with virus on points from the cow-pox virus, and in three cases they had been exposed; but in three cases the vaccination did not work. In one case in which the vaccination worked, the person has shown no symptoms of the disease.

At the last meeting of the board the subject of proposed legislation relative to diseased animals, and relative to a standard milk, had been referred to the Committee on Legislation and Diseases of Animals jointly. The Secretary reported considerable time and care had been devoted to the perfecting of three bills relative to those subjects, which had been introduced into the House of Representatives this session.

DANGEROUS ILLUMINATING OIL.

The Secretary reported that during this session of the Legislature there has been considerable lobbying to get the Legislature to lower the standard test for dangerous oils, and to do away with the use of the test adopted and recommended by this Board. The claim of the lobbyist, who was to this office, was that the change was wanted in the interests of manufacturers of kerosene, and that it was a matter of public safety. The Secretary reported that the Standard Oil Company, just how lowering the test would favor those particular oil manufacturers more than it would the Standard Oil Company he did not make clear. It has been rumored here that the reason for changing from the test now used was to enable a dealer in a patent apparatus to sell his test; but as this change is advocated by the same person who is laboring for a lowering of the test, it seems more reasonable to believe that the main reason is that the proposed apparatus does not detect the explosive vapor at so low a degree of temperature as does the present test. From experience it seems that simply by the proposed change in the test the standard would be lowered about ten degrees.

The committee was appointed by the Sanitary Convention held at Lansing, March 19 and 20, to consider this subject. The committee consisted of Frank Wells (ex-President of the Michigan Pharmaceutical Association), Chairman; H. D. Bartholomew, C. E. (ex-City Engineer); and Professor David Howell, Superintendent Lansing City Schools. April 2, this committee went before the Senate Committee on State Affairs and gave a verbal account of the results of their investigation, which was, in brief, that the test ought not to be lowered; that the "Foster Cup" was unreliable, and ought not to be substituted for the Michigan State Board of Health test; that if substituted for the Michigan State Board of Health test it was equivalent to lowering the test by about ten degrees.

By a vote of the Board this report concerning illuminating oils was ordered published, together with a resolution to the effect that there is not now sufficient evidence of the safety of such illuminating oils to warrant the lowering of the test now required for illuminating oils in this State. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Secretary read the report to this Board by Surgeon George M. Sternberg, U. S. Army, now at Johns Hopkins University, on his experiments on lower animals in feeding, and in making injections of culture fluids of poisonous cheese, with the view of learning the nature and source of the poison. Dr. Vaughan made a verbal report of his chemical experiments with poisonous cheese. He had carefully secured in a crystalline form a small quantity of one poison from poisonous cheese which would produce in man symptoms common to cheese poisoning. There might be other poisons in poisonous cheese. He had not yet fully studied the poison he had obtained. It gave reactions like those of opium. It was probable, he thought, that butyric acid had something to do with the sickness caused by cheese. There are different kinds of butyric acid, and the absence of the odor of rancid butter could not prove the absence of butyric acid. The subject of sanitary surveys of premises in cities and villages was thoroughly discussed. It was thought best that the blanks used should be uniform, but that each city or village should provide its own blanks. The committee was directed to make a sample blank to be recommended for such work, and to be sent with a resolution, which was adopted, as follows: Resolved, That the Michigan State Board of Health earnestly recommends to the Boards of Health of the cities and villages in Michigan that they make a sanitary survey of the territory under their jurisdiction, on blanks of which a sample is sent herewith, and to adopt such measures as will insure the most accurate and reliable results. The early rising and the carriage business is another force. Lamar, for instance, the most ardent demagogue south of Mason and Dixon's line, makes a grand parade about selling \$700 worth of carriage, and on the next day spent more than that amount in fixing up a private bathroom in his department for himself which would have been an extravagance in the days of Caligula, the Roman Emperor, who fed his horses in marble troughs and shod them with shoes of gold. Even had this horse-selling reform been a good stroke, it falls because only one or two of the Cabinet engage in it. Vilas, the youngest man in the Cabinet, rode to his horses, as do the others, with the exception of Garland and Lamar. The people of the country are not fools. Cleveland must do something if he would have their approval. So far his administration has been a series of mistakes, and it has failed utterly to show any sign of the reform it has promised.

"No," replied the Senatorial friend. "It has not, and neither the President, his Cabinet, nor the people are aware where the rascality exists in the departments. There is no doubt but that there is corruption, but this corruption does not exist with the heads of bureaus or the high-priced clerks. It is the middle men, and the fellows who get low salaries that do the stealing. These men hoodwink their chiefs and play into the hands of the jobbers. Cleveland is keeping these men in office, and is putting new men over them. Men, too, in most cases, whom it is far easier to deceive than the ones he has tried out. They are new to Washington, and are totally innocent of the ins and outs of the departments and the capital. They go into the departments dependent upon the clerks, and the result will be that whatever rottenness there is will be covered, and that it will increase. This is but the history of the past. The President and Secretaries could not discover the rascality of Howgate, of the Signal Service, and of Carrigan, of the Navy Department, until hundreds of thousands of dollars had been squandered. When their attention was called to the matter they did not give heed to it because some of the confederates of the thieves in office were busy shielding the rascals. There are many Howgates and Carrigans in office to-day. The removal of the Chief Signal Officer alone would have given Howgate a broader field on which to operate under a new chief, more ignorant than the one displaced. The removal of Surgeon General Wales would not have stopped Carrigan's operations. During the campaign the Democrats claimed that the departments were rotten with corruption. Hendricks the Vice President, said on the stump that one-third of the clerks could be dispensed with without trouble. Now nearly two months have passed, and the departments remain as they were, and the clerks who have been cut off can be numbered on your fingers and toes."

"Cleveland's biggest mistake," the Senator went on, "lies in his Cabinet. He is a good executive officer himself, but he should be aware that this country is too big, and it has too many ramifications for him to personally supervise the whole of it. He should have the best executive officers in the country to help him, and should not rely on a set of dreamers, theorists, and impractical men who know little of business and less of the ins and outs of Washington departments and Washington men."

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Out of seventy-four first-class appointments made by the President the North has thirty-nine and the South thirty-five. Of the North's appointments New York takes nine, Illinois and Pennsylvania five each, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Connecticut three each, New Jersey two, Massachusetts, Michigan, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Nevada one each. Of the Southern appointments Georgia has four, Mississippi, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana two each, Arkansas, Delaware, and North Carolina two each, and Florida one each. The noticeable feature of these appointments is that while every Southern State except Alabama has been recognized, the Democrats of nine Northern States—California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Oregon—have not yet had a bite of anything fit to eat. No wonder that they are kicking.

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PROF. BECKMANN says that lobsters are liable to become extinct within a few years. They are now taken from the very deepest water.

THE GREAT SEAL.

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HE WILL BE A FAILURE.

Reasons Why President Cleveland's Administration Will Be a Great Failure.

(Letter in Cleveland Herald.)

A Senator of the United States, whose name I can not give because our conversation was a private one, said to me last night: "If I am not greatly mistaken, this administration will be the greatest failure in our history."

"Why?" "I will tell you why. Because it has of itself no cohesive elements, and because, founded by a great party, it is disregarding the party, calling to its support unknown and inefficient men, and because all its views on public question are taken through the wrong end of the opera glass. There will always be two great parties in the United States, and one or the other of these is bound to rule from time to time. When a President elected turns out to be a trimmer and attempts to hoe a middle row between the two great party lines, he is sure to fail."

"He loses the support of his own party, and the other party, while pretending to admire him, laughs in his sleeve and stabs him in the back. Cleveland so far has totally disregarded the Democratic party. The boys of the party, the great masses, the men who carry the banners, who influence the immense vote of the lower classes, are getting nothing, and they will surely knife Cleveland as soon as they get a chance. They will do it in New York this fall. Mark my words! The State will go Republican by more than 40,000, and there will be the same result everywhere an election is held. Grover Cleveland is cutting the throat of the Democratic party, and if he goes on, and he probably will, the party will be nearly ruined by 1888. The Republicans are laughing at his administration now, and the Democrats themselves will laugh before two years have passed. Look at this Ada Sweet matter. Ada Sweet had been in office for more than a decade at a good salary. She expected to go out, and the Republicans expected her to go. Cleveland allows Black to write her the letter that puts his administration in the hole of going contrary to its principles, and says in black and white that there is no cause for her removal. Then, again, that postmaster at Rome. The postmaster was guilty of a misdemeanor, and the President should have turned him out on that ground without a word. Instead, he puts out a letter of half a column to the country apologizing. The early rising and the carriage business is another force. Lamar, for instance, the most ardent demagogue south of Mason and Dixon's line, makes a grand parade about selling \$700 worth of carriage, and on the next day spent more than that amount in fixing up a private bathroom in his department for himself which would have been an extravagance in the days of Caligula, the Roman Emperor, who fed his horses in marble troughs and shod them with shoes of gold. Even had this horse-selling reform been a good stroke, it falls because only one or two of the Cabinet engage in it. Vilas, the youngest man in the Cabinet, rode to his horses, as do the others, with the exception of Garland and Lamar. The people of the country are not fools. Cleveland must do something if he would have their approval. So far his administration has been a series of mistakes, and it has failed utterly to show any sign of the reform it has promised."

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RUSSIA'S CURT REPLY.

De Giers Refuses to Talk Further About the Penjdeh Incident—Duplicity of Turkey.

(Cable dispatch from London.)

The Russian reply to the communication sent to M. de Giers through Sir Edward Thornton yesterday, after the receipt of Sir Peter Lumsden's supplementary report on the battle of March 30, has just been received. M. de Giers replies curtly that Russia declines to enter upon any further discussion of the Penjdeh incident.

It is reported at St. Petersburg that the general staff are in favor of allowing Gen. Komoroff to act at his own discretion, not even M. de Giers to interfere.

A letter from Baku confirms the first account of the battle of Penjdeh, and states that the Afghan force consisted of 4,000 men. The writer, who had been with Sir Peter Lumsden, but who left him before the battle was fought, states the Russians throughout the winter had been trying to excite and irritate the Afghans, and that only Sir Peter Lumsden's influence prevented bloodshed long ago. Col. Altkhanoff advanced to Ak-Tapa at about the end of November, before the boundary commission had arrived, and a battle with the Afghans was narrowly avoided then. News has also been received that in the battle at Penjdeh the Afghan General was thrown out in the face of the fighting and was twice wounded. It is reported that Col. Altkhanoff offered a reward of 100,000 (about \$300) for the head of either of the British officers with the Afghan force.

A dispatch from Constantinople puts a new light on the diplomatic mission to England of Hassan Fehmi Pasha, the special Turkish Envoy, and Hobeit Pasha, Marshal of the Turkish Empire. In order to avoid the censorship of press dispatches at Constantinople this message was sent by mail to Athens and transmitted thence by telegraph to London. It says that the sole mission of Fehmi Pasha, who has been here constantly since January last, was to fool the Turkish Government into a belief that Turkey was disposed to be on friendly terms with England and to seek and follow her advice in all international complications. Hobeit Pasha, whose former reputation as a gallant Admiral of the British navy made him an admirable tool for this purpose, was sent with Fehmi Pasha to strengthen the blind. Hobeit Pasha was intrusted only with the delivery of certain presents to the Queen and Prince of Wales, accompanied by the customary assurances of distinguished consideration, etc., which may mean a great deal or nothing. All the fine work of diplomatic intrigue was to be done and has been done from first to last by Fehmi Pasha.

ABDURRAHMAN KHAN.

The Ameer of Afghanistan.



Ameer Abdurrahman Khan was born in 1830. He is the eldest son of Afzal Khan, and is thus a grandson of Dost Mahomed, who ruled Afghanistan till his death in 1863, and nephew to the late Sher Ali, who was deposed and expelled by the British invasion of 1879, and who died soon afterward in exile. When Sher Ali was recognized by the English, Abdurrahman, who had married a daughter of the Turkish Ameer of Bokhara, took refuge in those countries north of Afghanistan beyond the Oxus, which had then not yet been subjected to Russian control. He was pursued, however, by the pursuing spite of Sher Ali and Yakoub, who had seized his